Numb. 78

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Quicquid agunt Homines nostri Farrago Libelli.

From *Thursday October* 6. to *Saturday October* 8. 1709.

From my own Apartment, October 7.

AS your Painters who deal in History-Pieces, often entertain themselves upon broken Sketches, and smaller Flourishes of the Pencil; so I find some Relief in striking out Miscellaneous Hints, and sudden Starts of Fancy, without any Order or Connexion, after having spent my self on more regular and elaborate Dissertations. I am at present in this easy State of Mind, sat down to my Scrutore; where, for the better Disposition of my Correspondence, I have writ upon every Drawer the proper Title of its Contents, as Hypocrisy, Dice, Patches, Politicks, Love, Duels, and so forth. My various Advices are rang'd under such several Heads, saving only that I have a particular Box for *Pacolet*, and another for *Monoculus*. I cannot but observe, that my Duel-Box, which is fill'd by Men of Honour, is so very ill spelt, that it is hard to decipher their Writings. My Love-Box, tho' on a quite contrary Subject, filled with the Works of the fairest Hands in *Great-Britain*, is almost as unintelligible. The private Drawer, which is sacred to Politicks, has in it some of the most refin'd Panegyricks and Satyrs that any Age has produc'd. I have now before me several Recommendations for Places at my Table of *Fame*: Three of them are of an extraordinary Nature, in which I find I am misunderstood, and shall therefore beg Leave to produce them. They are from a Quaker, a Courtier, and a Citizen.

ISAAC,

'THy Lucubrations, as thou lovest to call them, have been perused by several of our Friends, 'who have taken Offence: Forasmuch as thou excludest out of the Brotherhood all Persons who 'are praise-worthy for Religion, we are afraid 'that thou wilt fill thy Table with none but Heathens, and cannot hope to spy a Brother there; 'for there are none of us who can be plac'd among murdering Heroes, or ungodly Wits; since 'we do not assail our Enemies with the Arm of 'Flesh, nor our Gain-sayers with the Vanity of Humane Wisdom. If therefore thou wilt demean 'thy self on this Occasion with a right Judgment, 'according to the Gifts that are in thee, we desire 'thou wilt place *James Naylor* at the upper End of 'thy Table.

Ezekiel Stiffrump.

In Answer to my good Friend *Ezekiel*, I must stand to it, that I cannot break my Rule for the Sake of *James Naylor*; not knowing, whether *Alexander the Great*, who is a Cholerick, won't resent his sitting at the upper End of the Table with his Hat on:

But to my Courtier:

SIR,

'I Am surpris'd, that you lose your Time in complimenting the Dead, when you may 'make your Court to the Living. Let me only 'tell you in the Ear, *Alexander* and *Cæsar* (as generous as they were formerly) have not now a 'Groat to dispose of. Fill your Table with good 'Company: I know a Person of Quality that 'shall give you 100 *l.* for a Place at it. Be secret; 'and be rich.

Yours,

You know my Hand.

This Gentleman seems to have the true Spirit, without the Formality of an Under-Courtier; therefore I shall be plain with him, and let him leave the Name of his Courtier, and a 100 *l.* in *Morphew*'s Hands: If I can take it, I will.

My Citizen writes the following:

Mr. *Isaac Bickerstaff*,

'YOur *Tatler* of *September* 13. am now reading, and in your List of famous Men, desire you 'not forget Alderman *Whittington*, who began 'the World with a Cat, and died worth Three 'Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds Sterling, 'which he left to an only Daughter Three Years 'after his Mayoralty. If you want any further 'Particulars of *Ditto* Alderman, Daughter, or 'Cat, let me know, and first will advise the Needful: Which concludes,

Your loving Friend,

Lemuel Leger.

I shall have all due Regard to this Gentleman's Recommendation; but can't forbear observing, how wonderfully this Sort of Stile is adapted for the Dispatch of Business, by leaving out insignificant Particles: Besides that, the dropping of the first Person is an artful Way to disengage a Man from the Guilt of rash Words or Promises. But I am to consider, that a Citizen's Reputation is Credit, not Fame; and am to leave these lofty Subjects for a Matter of private Concern in the next Letter before me.

SIR,

'I AM just recover'd out of a languishing Sickness by the Care of *Hippocrates*, who visited me throughout my whole Illness, and was

so

'so far from taking any Fee, that he enquir'd 'into my Circumstances, and would have re-'liev'd me also that Way, but I did not want it. 'I know no Method of Thanking him, but re-'commending it to you to celebrate so great Hu-'manity in the Manner you think fit, and to do it 'with the Spirit and Sentiments of a Man just re-'liev'd from Greif, Misery, and Pain; to Joy, Sa-'tisfaction, and Ease: In which you will represent 'the grateful Sense of

Your Obedient Servant,

T. B.

I think the Writer of this Letter has put the Matter in as good a Dress as I can for him; yet I cannot but add my Applause to what this distressed Man has said. There is not a more useful Man in a Commonwealth than a good Physician; and by Consequence no worthier a Person, than he that uses his Skill with Generosity, even to Persons of Condition, and Compassion to those who are in Want: Which is the Behaviour of *Hippocrates*, who shows as much Liberality in his Practice, as he does Wit in his Conversation, and Skill in his Profession. A wealthy Doctor, who can help a poor Man, and will not without a Fee, has less Sense of Humanity than a poor Ruffian, who kills a rich Man to supply his Necessities. It is something monstrous to consider a Man of a liberal Education tearing out the Bowels of a poor Family, by taking for a Visit what would keep them a Week. *Hippocrates* needs not the Comparison of such Extortion to set off his Generosity; but I mention his Generosity to add Shame to such Extortion.

This is to give Notice to all ingenious Gentlemen in and about the Cities of London *and* Westminster, *who have a Mind to be instructed in the noble Sciences of Musick, Poetry, and Politicks, That they repair to the* Smyrna *Coffee-house in* Pall-mall, *betwixt the Hours of Eight and Ten at Night, where they may be instructed* gratis, *with elaborate Essays by Word of Mouth on all or any of the above-mentioned Arts. The Disciples are to prepare their Bodies with three Dishes of Bohea, and purge their Brains with two Pinches of Snuff. If any young Student gives Indication of Parts, by listening attentively, or asking a pertinent Question, one of the Professors shall distinguish him, by taking Snuff out of his Box in the Presence of the whole Audience.*

N. B. *The Seat of Learning is now remov'd from the Corner of the Chimney on the Left-hand towards the Window, to the Round-Table in the Middle of the Floor over against the Fire; a Revolution much lamented by the Porters and Chairmen, who were much edified through a Pane of Glass that remain'd broken all the last Summer.*

I cannot forbear advertising my Correspondents, that I think my self treated by some of them after too familiar a Manner, and in Phrases that neither become them to give, or me to take. I shall therefore desire for the future, that if any one returns me an Answer to a Letter, he will not tell me he has receiv'd the Favour of my Letter; *but if he does not think fit to say, he has receiv'd* the Honour *of it, that he tell me in plain* English, *he has receiv'd my Letter of such a Date. I must likewise insist, that he would conclude with,* I am with great Respect, *or plainly,* I am, *without further Addition; and not insult me, by an Assurance of his being with great Truth and* Esteem *my humble Servant. There is likewise another Mark of Superiority which I cannot bear, and therefore must inform my Correspondents, that I discard all faithful humble Servants, and am resolv'd to read no Letters that are not subscrib'd, Your most obedient or most humble Servant, or both. These may appear Niceties to vulgar Minds, but they are such as Men of Honour and Distinction must have Regard to. And I very well remember a famous Duel in* France, *where Four were kill'd of one Side, and Three of the other, occasion'd by a Gentleman's subscribing himself a* most affectionate Friend.

One in the Morning, of the 8th of *Octob.* 1709.

I was this Night looking on the Moon, and find by certain Signs in that Luminary, that a certain Person under her Dominion, who has been for many Years Distempered, will within few Hours publish a Pamphlet, wherein he will pretend to give my Lucubrations to a wrong Person; and I require all sober dispos'd Persons to avoid meeting the said Lunatick, or giving him any Credence any farther than Pity demands; and to lock up the said Person where-ever they find him, keeping him from Pen, Ink, and Paper. And I hereby prohibit any Person to take upon him my Writings, on Pain of being sent by me into Lethe, *with the said Lunatick and all his Works.*

Having these Moon-shining Nights been much taken up with my Astronomical Observations, I could not attend the Press so carefully as I ought; by which Means more than ordinary Errata *have crept into my Writings, even to the making of false* English. *I shall only mention my last, wherein the Publisher having been misled by the Similitude of the Letters, in* Col. 1. Line 7. *printed* invented, *for* inverted; *and in* Col. 2. Line 29. fawning as a Lap-dog, *for* as fond as an Alderman.

Advertisements.

On Wednesday next will be publish'd for September,

☞ Atlas Geographus: Or, A Compleat System of Geography, Ancient and Modern. From the best Authors with near Two Hundred Cuts, Maps, Sanson's Tables, &c. Publish'd Monthly. This 17th finishes the Netherlands, and contains the Ancient Geography, &c. of France. With Three Maps and a Table, viz. 1. Gallia Antiqua & Nova, by Cluverius. 2. France in General. 3. The North Part of France: Both by Mr Moll. 4. Sanson's Table of the Modern Divisions of France; and an Account of their present Manners, Religion, &c. Sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had the preceding Months. Pr. 1 s. each. Note, those that take them in Monthly, are desir'd to give in their Names to their Booksellers to be printed, as Encouragers of the same, against Europe is finish'd, which will be in about 4 Months.

This is to give Notice to all Gentlemen and Ladies, That there is lately brought over a great Parcel of very fine German Cut and Carv'd Glasses, viz. Jellies, Wine and Water Tumblers, Beer and Wine Glasses with Covers, and divers other Sorts; the like hath not been expos'd to publick Sale before. They are lotted into small Parcels, with some of every Sort, fit for a Side-board: And will be sold by Auction on Thursday October 13th, 1709. at 5 in the Afternoon, at Stationers-Hall, Ludgate-street. The Goods are to be seen at the Black-Boy Coffee-house in Ave-mary-Lane, Ludgate-street, every Day to the Time of Sale.

*** A Military Dictionary: Explaining all difficult Terms in Martial Discipline, Fortification, and Gunnery. The Third Edition, Improv'd. To which is likewise added, a Sea Dictionary of all the Terms of Navigation: Both of them very useful (to all Persons that read the Publick News, or serve in the Army, Navy, or Militia) for the Understanding the Accounts of Sieges, Battles, and other Warlike and Marine Expeditions, which daily occur in this Time of Action. By Officers who serv'd several Years at Sea and Land. Printed; and sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 1. s. 6 d.

*** A Supplement to the New Version of Psalms by Dr. Brady, and Mr. Tate; containing, the Psalms in particular Measures, the usual Hymns, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, for the Holy Sacrament, &c. with Gloria Patri's, and Tunes (Treble and Bass) proper to each of them, and all the rest of the Psalms. The Sixth Edition, Corrected; and much enlarged; With the Addition of Plain Instructions for all those who are desirous to learn or improve themselves in Psalmody; near 30 new Tunes, composed by several of the best Masters; and a Table of Psalms suited to the Feasts and Fasts of the Church, &c. With Tables of all the Psalms of the New, Old, and Dr. Patrick's Versions, directing what Tunes are fitted for each Psalm. The Whole being a Compleat Psalmody. Useful for Teachers and Learners of either Version. Printed; and Sold by James Holland, at the Bible and Ball, at the West-End of St. Paul's.

*** A New Set of Cuts for the Common Prayer, 55 in Number, far exceeding any done in Great Britain before. Engraven by J. Sturt: And sold by him in Golden-Lion-Court, Aldersgate-street; R. Whitledge in Ave-Mary-Lane; J. Morphew, and J. Hazard, near Stationers-Hall. Pr. 3 s.